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SENATE

REPORT
101-342

AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TO PLAN, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, AND EQUIP SPACE IN THE EAST COURT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY BUILDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JUNE 27 (legislative day, JUNE 11), 1990.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. FORD, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2540]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, having considered S. 2540, a bill to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip space in the East Court of the National Museum of Natural History building, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 2540 is to authorize an appropriation of $30 million for fiscal year 1991 to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip approximately 80,000 square feet of new space in the East Court of the Natural History Museum. This project is part of the Smithsonian's strategy for renewal of the building which also involves renovation of space and replacement of systems throughout the existing structure.

BACKGROUND

As a result of several studies undertaken by the Smithsonian Institution of the Natural History building, which first opened to the public in 1910, plans have been made for the total renovation of the building's heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system and for relieving the existing crowded conditions. The plans call for construction of a new building within the East Court of the existing building. The new structure would be used as holding space during the renovation period, and would ultimately provide the ad-

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ditional space required by the Natural History Museum for laboratory, office, storage, and science education facilities.

On April 27, 1990, Senator Garn introduced S. 2540, to authorize appropriations to carry out the plans, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. Robert McC. Adams, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, submitted his report to Chairman Wendell H. Ford by letter of June 7, 1990, a copy of which is included herein, together with letters of support from Mr. Garn and Mr. Moynihan.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, DC, June 7, 1990.

Hon. WENDELL H. FORD,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for requesting the views of the Smithsonian Institution on S. 2540, a bill to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip space in the East Court of the National Museum of Natural History building, and for other purposes. To carry out planning, design, constructing, and equipping this facility, S. 2540 authorizes appropriations in an amount not to exceed $30 million effective October 1, 1990.

Enactment of S. 2540 will permit the Smithsonian Institution to maintain critical research and public programming activities in the National Museum of Natural History by responding to two important challenges: (1) completing the total renovation of the Museum's heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system in a timely manner and (2) alleviating the pressures of overcrowding in a structure that houses more than 1,200 employees, more than 3,000 visting scientists each year, more than 100 million specimens, and 30 public exhibition halls.

We have planned that, over the coming decade, the Natural History building will be renewed through the total renovation of its HVAC and electrical systems, asbestos removal, window repair throughout the building, and continued improvement of the fine protection systems. This will be the first project of such magnitude since the building opened to the public in 1910.

Entire departments will be forced to relocate as the renovation and HVAC replacement projects progress systematically, wing by wing throughout the building which will necessitate the periodic closure of public exhibition spaces. To ensure the smooth, sequential flow of renovation activities and minimize disruptions in the public areas of the Museum, holding space must be constructed to permit temporarily displaced staff to continue their work and to provide areas for temporary storage of dislocated collections.

The Smithsonian investigated multiple alternatives before concluding that the construction contemplated in S. 2540 would be necessary. Off-site space to house collections and staff temporarily simply is not feasible under a least-cost analysis and consideration of the strains that would be imposed on people and artifacts. Allocating on-site space within the Museum to receive revolving departments during the HVAC renovation also poses significant disadvantages: the 125,00 square feet needed under this scenario would re-

quire closing major public areas of the Museum over a seven year period. This seizable reduction in exhibition space would have a detrimental effect on the public and on the Museum's ability to fulfill its educational mission.

The Institution's Board of Regents ultimately concluded that the most economical and equitable alternative is construction of an extension to the Museum in the East Court of the building. The East Court is a hollow cube; the proposed construction would fill its interior. Because the new portion will connect with the existing structure, this solution has the advantage of the least disruption to the collections, the staff, and the public during the course of the requisite HVAC renovation.

The East Court building will create approximately 80,000 net square feet of additional space for office, laboratories, collections storage, and education areas. While this amount of space falls short of the estimated total need cited above, the Museum can adjust by temporarily compressing some of the activities and collections within the Natural History building and using exhibition space with the utmost economy.

As the renovation is completed, the holding space in the East Court building will become available to relieve severe overcrowding within the Museum. A mecca for research in the natural sciences, the National Museum of Natural History has expanded over the past 25 years as its collections and expertise have been increasingly brought to bear on issues such as global change and the degradation of biological diversity. Work in the Museum's laboratories, classrooms, exhibit halls, offices, and collection areas devoted to the study of these scientific challenges is conducted in spaces that over time have been halved and quartered, subdivided and reduced to minimal conditions. Two exhibition halls, formerly dedicated to public programs, are now sequestered as staging areas for collections.

The additional space afforded by the new construction will enable the Museum to ease the overstrained space resources that presently encumber all research and public program activities in the building. Once the HVAC renovation plan terminates, the 80,000 square feet will provide much needed laboratory, office, storage, and science education space, purposes that presently compete for inadequate resources.

The Institution overall will benefit greatly from the building project because the Museum, currently hampered by its own internally crowded conditions, cannot assist other bureaus and offices within the Smithsonian with a wide variety of support requests. The spatial constraints within the Natural History building impede curators, researchers, and public program staff alike in assisting their colleagues with requests to access the collections or loan objects for exhibition and public program uses.

Funds for the renovation will come from the Museum's Repair and Restoration account, totalling in excess of $100 million for the entire project through Fiscal Year 2000. In Fiscal Year 1990, $9,950,000 was appropriated for the renovation; $10,140,000 has been requested in the FY 1991 budget.

In Fiscal Year 1990 the Institution has allocated funds totalling $65,000 for conceptual planning of the East Court facility in order

to identify programs that will be included in the new building; determine specific space and construction requirements; develop a precise cost estimate; and establish a construction schedule. Our Fiscal Year 1991 budget, now pending in the Appropriations Committees, includes a request of $1.5 million for architectural design and engineering services, which are elements of the authorization contained in S. 2540.

The current estimate for the remainder of the project is $28.5 million, which includes the relocation of the greenhouse, the osteology preparation laboratory, and the building trade shops that occupy the construction site. The Smithsonian anticipates including the remaining $28.5 million for construction, furnishings, and laboratory equipment in the budget request for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993. Collection storage equipment will be budgeted separately.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MCC. ADAMS,
Secretary.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 1990.

Hon. WENDELL FORD,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR WENDELL: I ask that the Senate Rules Committee consider S. 2540, a bill to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Insitution to plan, design, construct, and equip space in the east court of the National Museum of Natural History, in its mark-up scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 1990.

The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution has developed a strategy for renewal of the Natural History building which will involve construction of new space in the east court of the building, together with renovation of space and replacement of systems throughout the existing structure. The new construction is estimated at $30,000,000. The bill would authorize not to exceed $30,000,000 to be appropriated to the Smithsonian Institution effective October, 1991 to carry out the construction and renovation.

I support this expanison to better protect our historical collections and further cultural awareness in our country. The Smithsonian chose this alternative after considering a variety of possibilities based on cost efficiencies, as well as least disruption to the museum collection and its staff.

I urge the Committee to report the bill favorably.

Sincerely,

JAKE GARN.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 1990.

Hon. WENDELL H. FORD,
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FORD: I am writing to lend my support to S. 2540, which would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design and construct a building addition in the East Court area of the National Museum of Natural History.

Over the past several years the Smithsonian Institution has undetaken a number of separate studies of the Natural History Building to address energy conservation, fire detection and suppression, and other remedies to building deficiencies. What was not expected was the magnitude of these repairs. As a result of these studies, the National Museum of Natural History faces two immediate challenges: accommodating a total building renovation of the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning system, and relieving staff overcrowding.

The museum proposes to construct a building inside the Natural History Building's East Courtyard. This building would inter-connect directly and would become an integral part of the Natural History Building.

During the time it will take to complete the proposed renovations, the life of the museum will be greatly disrupted unless the museum can proceed with this new building. Large blocks of collections will be moved back and forth, staff members will have to relocate temporarily, and entire exhibition spaces will be closed to the public. The closing of additional exhibition space would be of greatest loss to the visiting American public.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 2540. This construction would provide the Smithsonian a comprehensive way of addressing its space shortage and renovation concerns.

Sincerely,

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On June 13, 1990, the Committee on Rules and Administration held a markup session on S. 2540. It was passed by a record vote of 9-0 and was ordered favorably reported by the Committee.

COMMITTEE ROLLCALL VOTE

In compliance with paragraph 7(b) and (c) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the record of the rollcall vote in the Committee on Rules and Administration during its consideration of this measure was:

Yeas—9 Nays—0

Mr. Pell
Mr. DeConcini
Mr. Moynihan
Mr. Stevens
Mr. Hatfield
Mr. Dole
Mr. Garn
Mr. McConnell
Mr. Ford

The Chairman presented the proxies of Mr. Byrd, Mr. Inouye, Mr. Gore and Mr. Dodd in favor of the bill.

COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the estimate of costs of this measure prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act, is as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: S. 2540.
2. Bill title: None.
3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on June 13, 1990.
4. Bill purpose: To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip space in the East Court of the National Museum of Natural History building, and for other purposes.
5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

[By fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Authorization level	30				
Estimated outlays	1	5	12	12	

The costs of this bill fall in Function 500.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 2540 authorizes $30 million in 1991. Based upon information from the Smithsonian Institution, the funds would be spent over a four-year period. The actual construction is expected to begin in 1992. Estimated total outlays were made assuming full appropriation of the stated authorization level.

6. Estimated cost to State and local government: None.
7. Estimate comparison: None.
8. Previous CBO estimate: None.
9. Estimate prepared by: Diane Celuch.
10. Estimate approved by: C.G. Nuckols for James L. Blum, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee does not consider that passage of S. 2540 would have any regulatory impact.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Rules and Administration notes that this bill makes no change in existing law.

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